

rocky hill

LIFE

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See story on page 28



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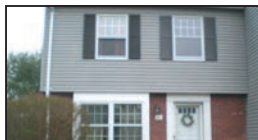
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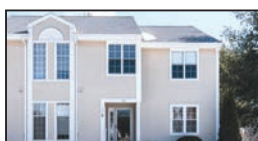
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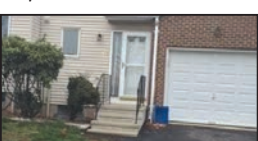
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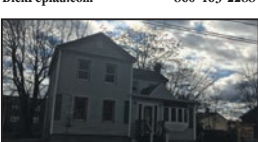
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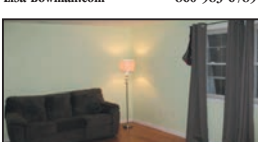
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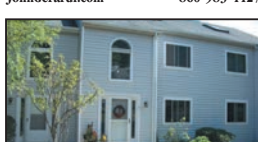
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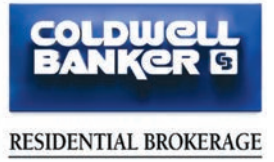


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April 2017

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QUOTE OF NOTE:

“The canvas tells him what to put on it.”

- Maryellen Arsenault

See story page 14

ON THE COVER

Kathy Mayer loves to share the joy that her registered therapy dog and trick specialist Kaydee has brought to her during the pup's eight years.

Photo by Lisa Brisson

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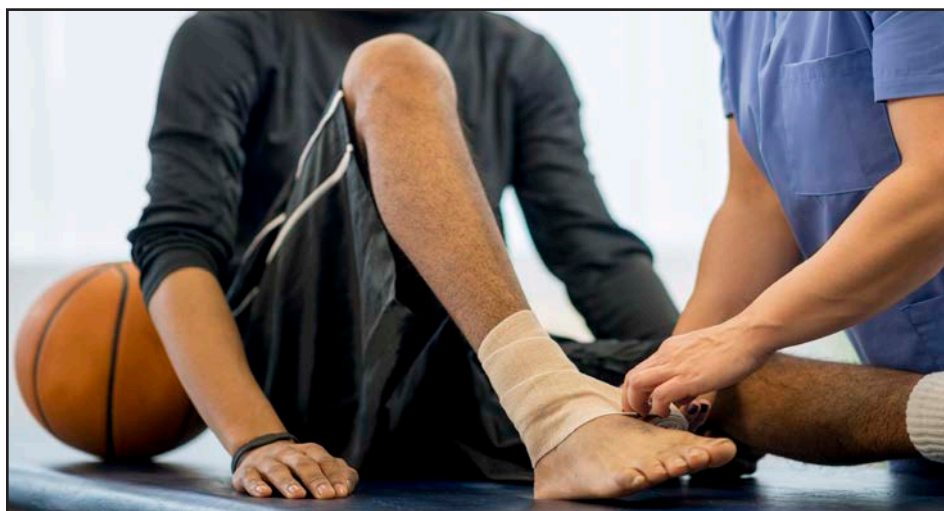
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Nine decades of service

Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department celebrates its 90th anniversary

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Senior fire officers and longtime members of the Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department have their photo taken with Mayor Claudia Baio, interim Town Manager John Mehr, state Sen. Paul Doyle and U.S. Rep. John Larson. The occasion was the celebration of the department's 90th anniversary.

Courtesy: photos

Many things have changed in the fire service since 1919 but one constant is the dedication of those who respond at a moment's notice and risk their personal safety to help their fellow citizens.

Members of the Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department celebrated their 90th anniversary Feb. 18 with speeches, an open house at fire headquarters and a buffet dinner. They also had the opportunity to review dozens of photos that give a pictorial history of the department and how it has changed over the years.

It was March 1919 when residents decided to take their first community action to provide town-wide fire protection. A town meeting authorized the purchase of two ladder trucks and various pails and axes.

This equipment was, at first, stored in the basement of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church. When a fire was reported, the church bell was rung to summon those citizens who were designated to carry this equipment to the scene of the emergency.

By 1921 it was already determined that this bucket brigade type of system was inadequate to meet the town's needs. A town meeting was held April 21 to purchase a pump, but the request was denied. A

second attempt was shot down at a town meeting held Feb. 28, 1925.

A group of men associated with the Rocky Hill Club – which later became the Rocky Hill Men's Club – saw the need for additional fire-fighting equipment. They appointed a committee to determine what was needed for improved fire protection.

A week later, the committee submitted its report to the club and a town meeting. A resolution was adopted to appropriate \$5,000 to purchase a fire truck and construct a building where it would be housed.

Seventy-one men signed a charter Feb. 18, 1927, to organize a volunteer fire department. Starr Elmore was named its first chief.

“Being a first responder – it’s an honor to do it. It’s all about saving lives.”

– David Hawkins

A special town meeting held at the Grange hall approved a site on the east side of Church Street for that first firehouse. A town meeting held Oct. 26, 1927, approved spending \$900 for a concrete floor and a heater for this facility.

Manpower to construct the firehouse was provided by the men of the newly organized department. A second-hand Reo fire truck was the first piece of motorized apparatus

and it was followed in 1929 by the purchase of a Ford Model A truck that the department maintains to this day as a show piece.

Equipment and manpower grew over the following 25 years and in 1948 volunteers built Station 2 to provide fire protection to the west end of town. This wooden structure housed two pieces of fire equipment.

The department continued to grow and the original buildings that housed the firefighters and their equipment became obsolete. A building program was launched and resulted in a new Station 2 in 1959 and a new Station 1 on Old Main Street in 1962.

A long-range equipment replacement plan was devised and resulted

in a 1,500-gallons-per-minute engine being acquired to augment a 1962 pumper that could produce 1,000 gallons per minute. The department's first 100-foot aerial ladder truck was dedicated Nov. 1, 1970.

A third fire company was established that same year. Calls for service were handled by staff at the police station and firefighters were summoned to duty by the Plectron home alert system. Today's firefight-

ers have pagers that they can carry with them wherever they go.

Volunteer firefighters drill weekly and also take state and federal training courses. They must pass the state's Firefighter 1 course, the same standard met by firefighters in larger cities and towns that have professional fire departments.

The Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department in 2017 has 86 members and enjoys a high rating from the Insurance Services Organization for the level of protection it provides to the public.

“I started when I was an 18-year-old kid. We put a lot of effort into recruitment, the structure of the department and apparatus,” Fire Chief Michael Garrahy said.

His father was a captain and one of two men in the department's history to die in the line of duty. Many firefighters past and present come from families where multiple generations have served.

“We have different ways to make volunteering more attractive,” Garrahy said.

There is a pension program for those who serve for more than 10 years. The town offers an annual property tax relief credit of \$1,000 to those who respond to a specific number of calls. There is also a stipend of \$12 per call.

"We did 703 calls last year," the chief said.

Training, equipment and uniforms are provided by town government. Volunteers train to the same level and standards as professional firefighters. The state's Firefighter I certification requires a minimum of 210 hours of training.

"Eighty percent of our people are at least Firefighters II, or above," Garrahy said. "The department's in a real good place and we want to make it better."

Fire Marshal Rich Renstrom is also a deputy chief and the town's director of emergency management. He joined RHVFD 36 years ago and is pleased with the dedication shown by his fellow members.

"We are very fortunate. This is a serious commitment," he said.

Other members of Garrahy's command staff include Assistant Chief Dave Kromas (38 years), Deputy Chief Mark Gentile and Capt. Jim Lamarre.

Kromas oversaw recent upgrades to the department's communication system. Gentile handles training and safety and Lamarre's assignment is recruitment. Kromas and Renstrom began their volunteer commitment as fire cadets. Gentile began as an emergency medical technician.

All of them said the key to being a well-functioning department is to work as a team. Everyone has an assigned task and acting on your own at an emergency scene is frowned upon for safety reasons.

There is natural attrition as volunteers' lives change so they are always on the lookout for new members. Some join as teenagers, others not until they are in their 30s and 40s. There has recently been an influx of young men returning from military duty.

"The military guys have been working out great," Lamarre said.

The men agreed that social media and cell phone cameras have changed how the public sometimes perceives them. They also understand that everything they do at an emergency scene these days may be recorded.

It costs taxpayers approximately \$1 million to fund the volunteer fire department. If the town converted to a paid fire department, Garrahy said that cost would increase to \$7 million or more.

He pointed out that several area towns have a pact that allows them to call upon each other during times of need. Task Force 51 consists of Rocky Hill, Cromwell, Berlin, East Berlin, Newington and Wethersfield.

"It's also part of the emergency



Paul Stewart

Photo by Mark Jahne

plan so we can go anywhere in the state," Gentile said.

Old-timers and newer members alike gathered for a celebration dinner at Station 3 on Main Street, which also serves as fire and ambulance headquarters. The building

was erected in 1982. They spoke about their experiences and dedication to protecting the public.

David Hawkins, who retired at the rank of captain, enjoyed a long tenure with the department. He was assigned to Truck 1 and followed a

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A fire engine drives down the street in this photo dated from June 1957.

family tradition of fire fighting that includes two older brothers.

"My father (Corwin) served as chief a couple of different terms," he said.

Hawkins worked for the state Department of Transportation in the public transportation area that covered trains, buses and taxis. He also served in the Army National Guard.

"My parents moved to town in 1938, the year I was born. I joined at 18," he said. "I'm very active in the Rocky Hill Fire Museum. It's all about brotherhood."

He recalled how the other fire-

fighters were there to support him and his wife when they were going through tough times. They stopped by every day to help care for him when he was sick.

"Being a first responder – it's an honor to do it. It's all about saving lives," Hawkins said.

He spoke proudly of the department's tradition in which the more veteran firefighters help the younger ones learn the skills to perform at a high level without getting hurt.

"We watch out for one another," he said.

Hawkins recalled a fire many

years ago in a high-rise building at 1800 Silas Deane Highway. It was winter and that added to the challenge. Firefighters from all over the state came to assist. It was so cold that a lot of their gear froze.

"We were there a couple of days and it was 20 below," he said.

He added that the gear wasn't as good, or as warm, as it is now. He also spoke of a major fire at the Puritan Furniture warehouse and some horrible crashes on I-91.

"I started in 1974. I was a truck-man. We shared all the jobs in the truck company," Bill Clare said.

He spent 10 years with the Rocky Hill department before moving on to Cromwell, where he rose to the rank of assistant chief before retiring.

"This is where I got my training. This is where I learned it all," he said. "The Rocky Hill Fire Department understands the tradition. They understand what it took to get here from nowhere."

He looked around the room and added that young and old alike appreciate the effort put in by the

firefighters who came before them. Clare added that he has great respect for the older guys.

Paul Stewart, 89, was the oldest living member of the department at the dinner. He signed up 66 years ago at the encouragement of Chief Ed Bacon.

"I joined in February 1951. He and I were neighbors from Boy Scouts up and we were in the Merchant Marine together," said the man who founded Stewart's Lawnmower Service on Glastonbury Avenue.

They also worked together as carpenters. He tagged along with Bacon on fire calls until deciding to join the department.

"No two fires are the same," Stewart said.

They are particularly difficult when there are people, especially children, trapped in the house. They didn't have air packs during the days he served but firefighters still entered homes and businesses because they were driven to save lives.

He choked up while telling the story of a fire that happened a life-



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time ago but still feels like it occurred yesterday. They did their best to save a child from a burning home, but the boy later died.

Stewart was an engineer on old Engine 1, a 1940 Maxim. He oversaw the restoration of that piece when the town reacquired it from the Connecticut Trolley Museum in East Windsor. Hawkins was among those who helped him with that project.

Stewart remembers a huge fire on Dividend Road that involved a large gasoline tank. He was first on the scene with his engine and learned the hard way about the dangers of back drafts.

"It blew me back about 20 feet. It blew me out of my boots and my hel-



David Hawkins

met flew off," he said.

Julio Figueroa, 25, is one of the newer members. He recently completed a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Army and served with an infan-

try unit in Iraq and Afghanistan. He works as a fraud analyst for Windsor Federal Savings.

Figueroa was born in Puerto Rico and lived in Meriden before moving to town more than two years ago. It wasn't long before the life of a volunteer firefighter attracted him.

"I felt like I needed to be a part of the community," he said.

He said there is a long list of reasons why that decision was a good one. High on the list is the sense of brotherhood that he also enjoyed in the Army.

"It's really awesome. I love the versatility of a volunteer fire department," he said. **RHL**

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PhotoS by Mark Jahne

Julio Figueroa

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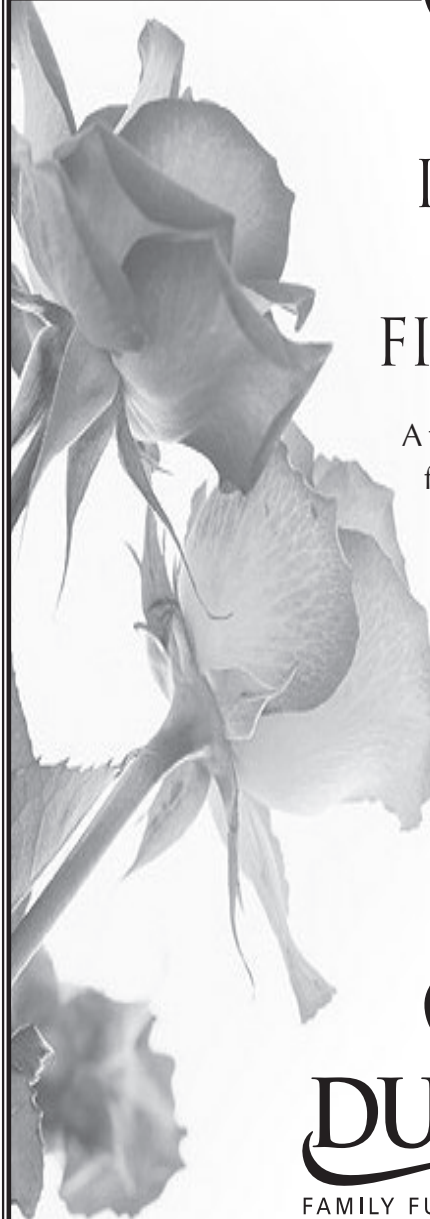
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Student of the month

Fourth-grader Aanay Chandra wins fire prevention poster contest

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Aanay Chandra, 9, wasn't sure what to think when he was briefly pulled out of the line while waiting to board his bus at West Hill School by Principal Scott Nozik.

"I wasn't sure what was going on at first, but then he told me I won and I was really happy," Aanay said.

The fourth grade student participated in the annual Fire Prevention Awareness competition sponsored by the local fire marshal's office that challenges elementary school students to create a poster promoting fire prevention and safety. The winning entrant would receive a \$50 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

"I didn't really enter for the prize, I just like to compete," Aanay said. "He's very humble and clearly

very appreciative," Nozik said. "At first he said he didn't even want the gift certificate, but his friends convinced him he should take it."

Nozik said that kind of humility is common for Aanay.

"He's not someone who is really out there or loud or seeking atten-

"I really like competitions. Any activity where I can compete, I'll do it."

– Aanay Chandra

Aanay had a lot of moral support from his family while creating his poster.

"When I was making it, my mom was cheering me on," he said. "My family is very important to me. They support me through everything."

In addition to his parents, he

also gets support from his older sister, 14-year-old Ananya, with whom he is close. Entering the contest was not about winning, but about the thrill of competition. He loves to enter any kind of contest his school may sponsor.

"I really like competitions," he said. "Any activity where I can compete, I'll do it."

Aanay recently worked to create a slideshow presentation about the presidents for a library/media competition. An ongoing contest at the school is to promote healthy eating.

"You have to think of a healthy food and you have to write down the recipe," Aanay said. "I'm entering an ambrosia salad. It's made with fruits inside of it."

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Photos by Allie Rivera

Aanay Chandra, a fourth-grader at West Hill School, is an avid reader, a brown belt in karate and a fierce competitor.

Though not typically a cook, Aanay said he was excited to enter. Five students from West Hill would be chosen to have their recipes made.

"My sister likes to bake and my mom and dad like to cook so I try to help out sometimes," he said of his culinary experience. "On special occasions I like to make breakfast for my mom or dad."

Aanay's competitive involvement is not limited to the classroom. He is a member of the school's running club, used to participate in the town Parks and Recreation Department Sea Lions swim team and plans to start playing soccer through Parks and Rec this year.

His greatest passion, however, lies in karate. He has been training at Action Karate since age 4 and has earned the rank of brown belt.

"I only have three left to go," he said.

Aanay practices at the dojo three to four times per week, training in form, sparring and weapons. In the latter classes he has learned to use nunchucks, also called nun-chaku. They are two solid handles connected by a short chain.

"Now I know how to do some really cool tricks," he said. "Next

I'm trying out the bo staff."

That's a long straight staff. Ever the competitor, Aanay competes in tournaments with his dojo individually and as a team.

"The place where my mom puts my trophies is full now," he said with a small smile.

During his free time, he enjoys being outside with his friends playing basketball or other sports. He likes putting together LEGO sets or reading his favorite book series, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

Now that he has officially won the \$50 gift card to Barnes & Noble, Aanay is trying to decide what he will buy with the winnings.

"I'm thinking I want to buy a LEGO," he said.

Nozik and the teachers who know Aanay best agree that seeing him gain this recognition has been heartening.

"He's just a good, well-deserving kid," the principal said. "I'm glad we had the opportunity to see him shine."

Aanay considers winning the poster contest as merely the cherry on top of an already great academic year.

"I love this school," he said.

"Fourth grade has been the best year so far." **RHL**

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Solving the case

CREST Dive Team does its investigatory work under water

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Sometimes criminals dispose of evidence of their misdeeds in the water. Other times there may be the need to retrieve car or person that has submerged in a river, lake, or pond.

Either way, the members of the CREST Police Dive Team train on a regular basis to handle such situations. CREST stands for Capitol Region Emergency Services Team.

It is a shared law enforcement resource staffed by officers from East Hartford, Glastonbury,

Hartford, Rocky Hill, South Windsor, West Hartford and Wethersfield.

These are not rescue divers who rush to the scene of a crisis to pull someone out of a car that may have gone into the water. That task is usually handled by fire department or other rescue units.

CREST divers perform a recovery role, in large part because it takes time to mobilize a multi-town team and responding rapidly to active incidents is not practical.

One recent Wednesday morning team members traveled to Bigelow



Officer Jon Lammers of Rocky Hill, in the hole, is suited up and ready to tackle the frigid water.

Photos by Mark Jahne

Hollow State Park in Ashford to hone their skills in an ice-covered pond. They were assisted by Tolland County firefighters and other emergency personnel who perform public safety diving.

A diamond-shaped hole was cut in the center of the ice that was six inches thick. A smaller hole was drilled 30 feet away. The objective this day was for divers to enter the water through the large hole and come out of the smaller one.

Sgt. Mike Dobler and Cpl. Ron Littell of South Windsor ran the

drill. Safety was a foremost concern and all details were carefully reviewed before anyone entered the icy pond. Winter water is typically in the 30s in terms of degrees Fahrenheit, they said.

"Today's operation is to get divers into the water," Littell said.

The divers would then flip upside down and operate in that manner, like a spider crawling across the ceiling.

Whether training or responding to a call, the team always works from what is determined to be safe

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ice that will not break beneath their weight.

Those who were scheduled to dive donned special suits that keep them warm and dry. They were hauled out to the diving hole on a sled so as not to exhaust themselves by walking across the ice while wearing these suits and heavy air tanks.

No one goes under the water without support. Every diver is paired with a tender who stays out

Jon Lammers of the Rocky Hill Police Department are members of the team. Both are divers, although often one will tend for the other.

Morgan was asked what motivated him to take on this specialized duty.

"I'm a diver anyway," he said. "A spot opened up on the team and it's something I was interested in. We do evidence recovery, not just bodies."

He started scuba diving 12 years ago.

West Hartford Det. Phil Mugford has been diving for much of his adult life. He is in his thirty-second year with WHPD.

"I'm a public safety scuba diver, have been for years," he said. "I was a scuba diver before I was a policeman."

Officer Charles Upton is a 20-year veteran of the Glastonbury Police Department. He developed a personal interest in diving and that led him to join the CREST team.

"I love underwater diving," he said. "We find a lot of small things in the river."

Upton said the team tends to be activated because of a tragedy or serious crime,

Sgt. Steve Morgan of Rocky Hill tries to warm his hands while suiting up for a dive.

of the water and the two are connected by a rope.

Communication is primarily achieved by radio but sometimes these don't work so well in wet conditions. So they fall back on the still effective old-school method of having the tender direct the diver which way to turn, and how to otherwise proceed, by tugging on the rope a certain number of times.

The diver can also use the rope to notify the tender if he is in any kind of distress so that emergency action can be taken to save him. The tenders guided the divers from the entry hole to the smaller exit hole in this manner.

Search patterns are conducted in a methodical manner and team members are proud to say that they are able to find items as small as cell phones and handguns in even the murkiest water.

Sgt. Steve Morgan and Officer

often during bad weather and when river currents run strong.

"Any time we get called out, it's lousy," he said.

Officer Al Whaples is Wethersfield's lone member of the team. He is a certified diver, but his duties with this team are above the water as a line tender and operator of Wethersfield's police boat.

"I've been on the team since its inception back in 2003," he said. "We've had a lot of good times together."

Whaples enjoys both the work and the camaraderie. He described the search patterns the divers employ as an excellent way to find even small objects.

"It's a great system. If we follow it properly, we will find what we're looking for," he said. "We need to start in the right area. We've made a lot of good recoveries over the years." **RHL**



Networking for business



Chris Costa of Burriss Logistics is welcomed by event host Jesse Hartman, general manager of Experimac.



Angela Clang, catering manager for Moe's Southwest Grill, chats with Robert Jones of The Jones Group.



Photos by Mark Jahne

The Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce held a Business After Hours networking event the evening of Feb. 16 at the new Experimac store on the Silas Deane Highway. Bryan Wosczyzna, president of the chamber board, welcomes Sandra Matteson of AFLAC.

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Brian Arsenault loves to paint in the Impressionist style.



Photos by Mark Jahne

He paints from his heart

Brian Arsenault reflects on a lifetime as an artist

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Brain Arsenault's passion for art goes back to the very beginning – literally.

"It started when I was born. I'm the a typical artist who has done it all my life. My first choice was to be a sculptor," he said.

The New Bedford, Mass., native who now resides in Rocky Hill remembers accompanying his mother to the library at an early age. He always brought home art books and would practice copying pictures from those books.

Eventually, he became a painter. That led him to attend the Butera School of Art in Boston. Painting became his avocation and he was so prolific in his work that it can be found in numerous galleries in such places as Boston and Newport, as well as numerous private collections.

His work also hangs in England,

Italy, China, Canada and elsewhere. It can be viewed locally at Rocky Hill Town Hall, Hartford City Hall and the Hartford Public Library.

"I've sold more than Van Gogh ever did, which is a plus. He sold one," Arsenault said with a laugh.

When he was 27 years old, his mother passed away.

That was such an emotionally difficult time for him that Arsenault, now 66, decided he would never again create art. He went more than 25 years without picking up a paint brush until he decided to give it another try in 2000.

"I was an art director for one company," he said. "There wasn't anything in the plant that I couldn't do."

He earned a living as a textile

engraver for 35 years. His career also saw him spend some time as a dock worker. Arsenault and his wife, Maryellen, met in a New Bedford bar where he was the bouncer and she was a waitress.

"We decorated many restaurants with his work," she said.

The couple has two sons and one granddaughter and have lived here for seven years.

"We fell in love with Rocky Hill," Brian said.

Maryellen is creative in her own right and enjoys crochet, woodcarving, knitting and needlework. She's humble about her accomplishments, but her husband has plenty of pride in what she creates.

"She's got a fantastic eye for color," he said. "I'm proud of her.

She does have it within her."

"It's fun, it's uplifting. I won first place at the Mystic Carving Competition two years ago," she said. "My passion is pastels. I adore doing paintings in pastels."

Once Brian started painting again, his old passion returned. He joined an art association and began displaying his works in shows.

Many won awards. He prefers to do still life, landscapes and marine paintings.

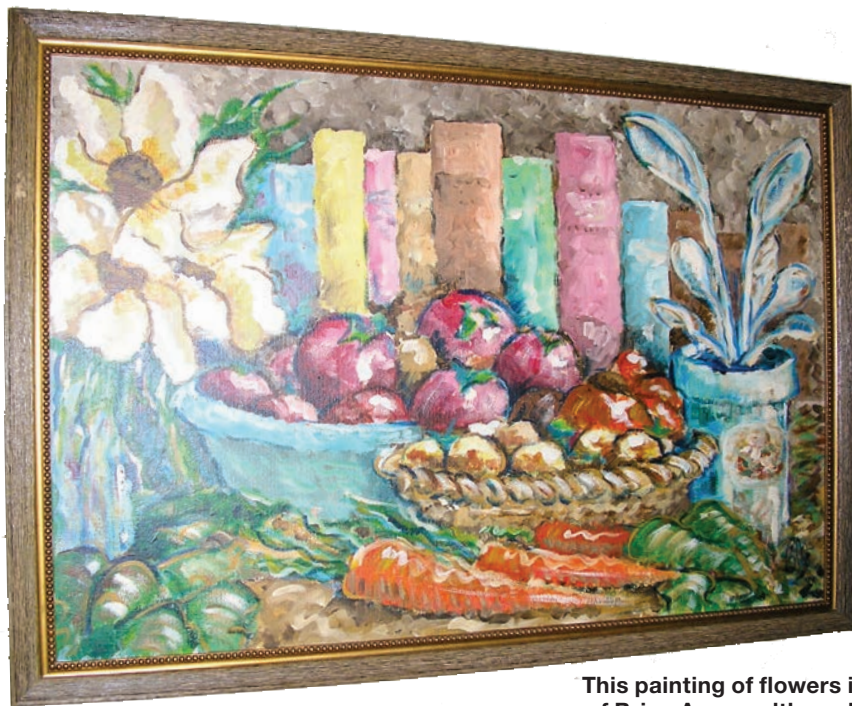
"It just took off from there," he said.

He also produced his own exhibits at which anywhere from 35 to 50 paintings were displayed. His wife helped to publicize these events. Maryellen secretly watched him paint to ascertain what she could learn because he is firm in his belief that he is not cut out to teach art.

That's because he has what he calls an unusual way of

"The canvas tells him what to put on it."

– Maryellen Arsenault



This painting of flowers is one of Brian Arsenault's early works. It hangs in his kitchen.

creating a painting.

"I paint what I feel," Brian said. "I've had a lot of people offer me good money to teach them. I'm not a teacher."

He equates his method of painting to the sculptor who claims he didn't create a masterpiece, he just chipped away the excess stone.

Brian firmly believes that the painting is already on the canvas and he just needs to bring it out into plain view.

"The canvas tells him what to put on it," Maryellen said.

Brian likes to look at paintings from the side,

rather than straight on, because the texture interest him as much as the colors. His three favorite artists are Michelangelo, Claude Monet and John Singer Sargent.

"I tend to have a strong leaning toward Impressionism," he said.

With his bald head and long gray beard, he has a striking resemblance to the Impressionist painter Monet and likes to have fun with that by dressing up as the late French artist and attending exhibitions of his work.

People tend to do a double-take when they see him.

"It's freaky, it really is.

It's unbelievable," Maryellen

said of the physical similarities of the two men.

Brian prefers to work in acrylics. He believes one reason for his success is the fact that he learned all of the rules for painting, because only after one masters those rules can they be selectively bypassed. If he's part of the way through a painting and doesn't like what he sees, he cuts the canvas into pieces and starts over.

One of his dreams as a boy was to some day create a piece of art that would be accepted for display at New Bedford's prestigious Wamsutta Club. That dream came true many times over. **RHL**



Brian Arsenault and his wife Maryellen are both accomplished artists.



This painting of a woman walking through the woods is another example of his artistic style.



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Events *spotlight*

Bunny Breakfast Bonanza

April 1, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Community Center

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860-258-2772 or rockyhillct.gov/parkrec

Celebrate the season with Jelly Bean the Bunny at this family pancake breakfast. Activities will include pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, crafts, games and more.

Rocky Hill Library 5K Run/Walk

April 8, 9 a.m.

Griswold Middle School

144 Bailey Road

runsignup.com/Race/Events/CT/RockyHill/BookItForCora

Runners and walkers are invited to participate in this second annual event. The race starts at Griswold Middle School shortly followed by a kids' fun run. Registration is now open, tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. All proceeds will benefit library programming and summer reading activities.

Friends Tea Social

April 19, 6:30 p.m.

Cromwell Belden Public Library

39 West St., Cromwell

The Friends of the Cromwell Belden Public Library will host this event and Peggi Camosci from Tea Roses Tea Room has donated the tea to be served. It will be accompanied by soft background music and light refreshments. There will also be drawings and a tea cup auction. The auction will have cups available for purchase starting at \$1 and tea pots for \$5. Tickets are \$1 each or seven for \$5. Another feature is a selection of gift baskets.

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Samiksha Rout, left, and Noah Pelaez, third graders in Lynn Marinelli's class at West Hill, learned about the science of color.

Photos by Allie Rivera

LIFE

in the classroom

Students celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday in a colorful way

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Students and staff at both West Hill and Stevens elementary schools were a little more colorful than usual March 2. That day, known from coast to coast as Read Across America Day, is also the birthday of legendary children's author Theodor Geisel, better known for his penname Dr. Seuss. In Rocky Hill, the day has become one of celebration with the annual One Book, One Community program.

"One of the goals with One Book, One

Community is that it's intended to promote a love of learning and community," Mary Schaefer, K-12 language arts coordinator, said. "It's a whole school event in which the students are participating in reading and writing and enrichment experiences." Now in its fourth year, One Book, One Community provides a copy of the year's selected book to every student, faculty and staff member at both elementary schools. It encourages families to participate in a variety of reading and enrichment activities that correlate with the book.

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Teacher of the Year Mike Melino celebrated Read Across American Day with his third grade class at West Hill School by dressing up as the Cat in the Hat.



"We want to see a whole school community have a common experience and we want students to be able to take the book home and share it with parents," Schaefer said.

The books are selected in the first half of the school year by a committee of teachers and administra-

tors. The greatest challenge, Schaefer said, is finding a book that can be both accessible and appealing to students ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade.

This year the committee selected "Hailstones and Halibut Bones," a poetry book about color written by

Mary O'Neill.

"It's a book that is accessible K through 5," Schaefer, who sat on the selection committee, said. "The younger students can relate to the rhyme and the rhythm and the associations with color, and for the upper grades there is a wonderful literary

language and metaphors and comparisons."

Originally published in 1961, the book uses poetry and rhyme to explore different colors. On March 2 students dressed to match the variety of bright colors found in the books.

While the purpose of the One Book, One Community program is to bring students, families and staff together over a shared experience, the activities on the day of the event allowed teachers to think creatively.

"We put out some core ideas of activities," Schaefer said. "We wanted everybody to do some writing of poetry because it's a topic everybody can relate to, but beyond that they had some flexibility, especially where specials got involved."

At West Hill, each of the specials teachers, including art, music and physical education, created activities for students based on the book. Walking into the gymnasium, students were greeted with a burst of colorful cones and hoops.

"We're doing two separate games for them," physical education



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Students at Stevens Elementary School created colorful murals including an orange one with drawings of pumpkins, balloons and cones.

teacher Mike Vye said. "Under all the different colored cones are shapes they've been assigned and on each of those is a different task they have to do as a group."

Both Vye and fellow P.E. teacher Vicki O'Keefe used the colorful theme to not only get children moving but also to teach them about different food groups and nutrition.

"They love it," Vye said. "They've all been getting very excited when they walk in and they're having a good time."

The themes of color and poetry were further explored within the classrooms. Third-graders spent time learning about how eyes see color and performing colorful experiments during science. Students also had the opportunity to write their own poetry.

"It was amazing the different things the teachers were able to

come up with," Schaefer said.

Similar activities were taking place across town at Stevens School. Music teacher Betty Jo Stevens and art teacher Jilani Scherer teamed up to give students from all grades a common goal.

"They gave us the book and we thought it would be nice if the kids made a mural," Scherer said.

Unable to paint the actual walls, the two educators, along with library media specialist Michelle Hannon, set up large papers on the floor of the multipurpose room delineating a color to each paper. Throughout the day, different grades came in and added small drawings of items that matched the color, such as strawberries or nail polish on red, or bananas or SpongeBob SquarePants on yellow.

"It's all based on the book itself," Stevens said.



The blue mural at Stevens Elementary School included student drawings of fish, crayons and blueberries.

Teachers within all of the classrooms created activities in conjunction with the book.

Read Across America Day in Rocky Hill was not limited to the elementary schools. Students at Griswold Middle School were provided with their own One Book, One Community copy. They read the short novel, "A Long Walk to Water," by Linda Sue Park. The book tells the true story of Salva Dut of Sudan.

"He was considered one of the Lost Boys. He survived the civil war that was going on in the Sudan back in the '80s," Schaefer said. "It's a great survival story of what they went through and showing our students a different side of life."

The GMS book selection committee, which differed from the elementary committee, put together a variety of activities for the middle school pupils to complete and simi-

larly allowed individual teachers the chance to teach the subject matter in their own way.

"The students and teachers did a wonderful job learning about the history of Sudan," Schaefer said.

"The committee put together some great activities where they interviewed students about water and had some realistic simulations where students carried or held big jugs of water to see what it was like. They really did a nice job with it."

The One Book, One Community program has become an integral part of education in Rocky Hill.

"Building a love of learning is so important," Schaefer said. "The school-home connection is also important as students are taking these books home to share with parents and to share with families. It really is a way to bring the entire community together." **RHL**

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Making the grade

The following students were named to the honor roll for the second quarter at Rocky Hill High School.

Grade 12 High Honors

Aliyan Ahmed, Karis Bergen, Ashley Bezdelovs, Rosario Bourdier, Samantha Brady, Christina Braun, Vanessa Cardillo, Amanda Carducci, Dante Carlone, Vincent Cassarino, Mark Catania, Cameron Cheyney, Alicia Dabek, Timothy Davis, Justin Donofrio, Shannon Duffy, Zykeya Ford, Ryan Fraleigh, Anthony Fortes, Michelino Gali, Nicolas Garry-Benco, Evan Gauvin, Joseph Goodrich, Allison Grover, Erin Kelly, Cristina LoGiudice, Emily Louro, Peter Lucente, JoDee Lupacchino, Krystal Macca, Julia Machaj, Kristina Machaj, Robert Machai, Salvatore Madera, Summer Marshall, Tatyana Martinez, Sean McCooe, Ricky Montalvo, Bailey O'Connell, Prarthana Patel, Austin Pavelec, James Pitchell, Amanda Place, Ariana Ramos, Frankie Roberts, Giuseppe Russo, Alana Rychlec, Sarina Santos, Nicole Shank, Stephen Shepard, Alexander Sikorski, Ethan Simard, Michael Simons, Deanna St. Germain, Caroline Sullivan, Joseph Sullivan, Katherine Sullivan, Jason Vailionis, Daniel Tonna, Gabriel Walerysiak, Emily Whelan, Ryan Wolf and Joseph Young.

Grade 11 High Honors

Victoria Acca, Rojina Bashyal, Brendan Boyle, Joseph Catania, Daniel Cavallaro, Adan Cecunjanin, Dillon Cerpa, Nicole Chamberland, Shelby Cios, Elizabeth DeNardo, Stephen DeNardo, Michelle Dougherty, Matthew Emmanuel, Sarah Erksen, Torah Ferreebee, Alexandra Fishberg, Cole Fishberg, Jared Friday, Salvatore Gentile, Gino Giansanti, Arian Gokhale, Katrina Granovski, Michael Griswold, Zirui Hao, Madison Hussey, Sana Kasmani, Sophie Kurdziel, Matthew Lanciotto, Anika Lawrence, Andrew Levine, Rachel Longo, Jonathan

Lu, Ioannis Mastorakis, Adelina Miceli, Grace Moore, Madelyn Morse, Bree O'Connor, Colin Pavel, Brianna Place, Rachel Roncaioli, Seyed-Arash Safavi, Brigid Schulenburg, Sabrina Sokaitis, Brian Speers, Samantha Steinman, Katherine Stockman, Medina Talavera, John Woolley and Emily Zarrilli.

Grade 10 High Honors

Pavan Adapa, Anthony Albano, Tomasz Baliga, Gulnaz Bhura, Jordyn Bowler, Gabriela Brown, Adam Buerk, Thien-Kim Bui, Daniella Castanho, Anel Cecunjanin, Sharanya Chandu, Alisha Chhabra, Daniel Cho, Chloe Colandrea, Christopher Conlan, Andre Costa, Megan Creevy, Lilah Devine, Julia DiBattista, Victoria DiLoreto, Nesla Disha, Shae Duffy, Jessica Eisenhaur, Morgan Felice, Ryan Figueiredo, Mihir Gowda, Leah Graf, Lea Grant, Alexandra Gwara, Melissa Hiller, Maya Kugel, Pranjali Kulkarni, Benjamin Lukens, Nicole Lukens, Miguel Madera, Kate Masciadrelli, Alyssa Morabito, Pulkit Nagpal, Julia O'Connor, Yamini Pant, Alexandra Parks, Lauren Pattison, Haley Pavelec, Molly Pawlak, Angelika Ptak, Hasham Rauf, Anna Riedinger, Ashley Scacca, Amanda Schuman, Sarah Simard, Karalina Valente, Venanzio Weeks, Anne White and Kellie Williams.

Grade 9 High Honors

Fajer Aftab, Nikhileshwar Anaparthi, Aidan Antiporda, Ethan Arcata, Olivia Binaco, Athea Bonamico, Thien-Bao Bui, Talia Carlone, Nicholas Cella, Ananya Chandra, Avani Chhabra, Vikram Chowdhury, Jonathan Cichowicz, Connor Choptij, Isabella Cimini, Gabrielle Dahbour, Kanisha Desai, Nichole Detushev, Grace Famiglietti, Nicholas Faraci, Crista Fiala, Matthew Fisher, Adam Franzen, Jason Freitas, Karoline Gawron, Ohm Ghutadaria, Elaina Giansanti, Archisha Jaiswal, Allison Jo, Daria Kokic, Salvatore Lonero, Isabela Lebron-Rivera, Katelyn Longo, Lynda Lyn, Sarah

McGowan, Anna Montalto, Isabella Montalvo, Margaret Montalto, Savannah Muzio, Riya Naik, Marina Nanci, Audrey Nelson-Mbiah, Ianna Pagan, Krisha Patel, Nishi Patel, Parth Patel, Kaylie Pavel, Christina Petrini, Jake Rajotte, Emily Rostkowski, Annalyn Ricci-Cohen, Maya Salamone, Keya Saxena, Brandon Scacca, Jay Scacca, Madeline Stevens, Elizabeth Stockman, Georgia Symeoudakis, Taylor Tenerowicz, My Tran, Lydia Tzickas, Alexia Vassallo, Nathalie Wallace, Erika Watson, Nicole Zarrilli and Sarah Zarrilli.

Grade 12 Academic Honors

Rahul Abraham, Angela Alvarado, Charles Ball, Kristopher Begen, Nicholas Bellin, Nam Bui, Patrick Cella, Jay Chandran, Brooke Chao, Paul Ciarcia, Isabella Colasacco, Luke Devine, Matthew DiBattista, Kaitlin Dillon, Maya Eisenhaur, Ben Famiglietti, Jacob Franzen, Sarah Freitas, Melissa Gamonal, Tanner Gentile, Christopher Hansen, Hunter Held, Justin Hock, Arlindi Hoxha, Nico Karabetsos, Madeline Kovanda, Fotos Kroji, Damon Loner, Despina Merriman, Amanda Mitchell, Joseph Monaco, Arianna Morabito, Kaley Paulino, Riley Pickett, Anthony Pietrandrea, Amber Rehman, Devyn Rockefeller, Kyle Rosenberg, Anthony Sapia-Banas, David Scalise, Kajal Shah, Julia Simboski, Montserrat Sousa-Sanchez, Brianna St. Georges, Jason Vailionis, Jake Walling, Christopher Witowski and Lukasz Zduniak.

Grade 11 Academic Honors

Sydney Aberbach, Marisa Anderson, Brendan Aube, Victoria Bower, Luke Brennan, Christopher Brescia, Emma Brownstein, Ashley Cannata, Sabrina Capasso, Ajsala Cecunjanin, James Chasco-Dimauro, Kristen Costello, Jordan DelMastro, Andrew DiMatteo, Thomas DiMatteo, Haley Doll, Grace Fisher, Connor Gagne, Gina Genovese, Elena Goodman, Madison Gorski,

Daniel Goslin, Jack Hansen, Ma'Leigha Jacobs, Grace Lang, Marc LaPuma, Megan Mahoney, Gabriella Mezzio, Kevin Moise, Tyler Morgan, Sonalia Neemcharan, Nathaniel Nicholson, Kruti Patel, Vincent Pietrandrea, Szymon Ptak, Tierney Robbins, Admir Radoncic, Ryan Robinson, Samantha Rogala, Robert Saucier, Daniel Schumann, Reva Shah, Jonathan Tefoe, Joseph Twigg, John Uricchio, Luke Vassallo, Crystal Vinci, Dylan Walsh, Jacob Weber, Kristin Wesley, William White, Alexa Wilson, Wiktorina Zduniak and Scott Zebrowski.

Grade 10 Academic Honors

John Blair, Meagan Caesar, Rachel Calcagni, Caleb Cronin, Farhan Dalawar, Morgan DeCarlo, Viviana Delgado, Connor Devanney, Katarzyna Drozdal, Kyler Florer, Nathaniel Forrest, Felicity Frate, Michelle Galdamez, Charles Hilton, James Huddleston, Brett Kiesel, Antwine Lee, Alexandra Lopez, Kelsey Lopez, Francis Malabanan, Emma Molloy, Prem Patel, Aaron Pavelec, Griffin Pickett, Skyler Pitchell, Logan Prentiss, Julia Rosa, Robert Rosa, Nijaz Salihovic, Dakota Smith, Annette Torres, Christa Tucker, Sophie Twigg and Syrina Williams.

Grade 9 Academic Honors

Arbaz Afzal, Mia Aglieco, Faraz Ahmed, Evan Barilla, Austin Bouchard, Kyle Bouchard, Ryan Boyle, Curtiss Clemens, Rosado Colon, Patrick Conlan, Yuanlong Dai, Robert Degree, Emma Drumm, Matthew Durkin, Annabella Ensign, Justin Fraleigh, Jordan Glover, Kevin Gonxhe, Kinshu Gupta, Gabriella Horta, Tyler Hussey, Mallika Joshi, Megan Khanna, Amila Korkutovic, Michael Lopez, Emily Marchand, Abigail Murra, Jimmy Noe, Brandon Onyejekwe, Julia Pawlich, Michael Ptak, Matthew Rados, Julia Rizzo, Bailey Savery, Liam Sullivan, Luke Thurz, Nicardo Wright and Sofia Zhuk-Vasilyeva. **RHL**



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From the Mayor's Desk

Life around town gets busy as the weather gets warmer

by Claudia Baio

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy St. Joseph's Day and happy spring. Hopefully March will follow its usual path and go out like a lamb, as it came in like a lion.

Now that we've made it through our blizzard, here's a big thank you to our first responders and emergency staff who staffed the Emergency Operations Center. While we were all snowbound in our homes and subject to a travel ban, the town police, fire department, ambulance, fire-police, human services and highway departments were working hard to keep us safe.

Highway Department personnel were out during the early morning hours and throughout the storm to keep ahead of the weather and on top of our roads. Thanks to them all for their hard work.

Congratulations to Bob Herron, our new town historian. Bob has written a book entitled "Rocky Hill in World War I" published this past month. The book is available both online and at the Academy Hall Museum.

The Rocky Hill Historical Society has also compiled a World War I display that includes 100-year-old posters and other local artifacts. Plans are also underway to display



Courtesy photos

Mayor Claudia Baio was among the guests in attendance when local girls recently celebrated the 105th birthday of the Girl Scouts of America.

some of the historic photos throughout the town hall campus.

This is a great precursor to the upcoming 175th anniversary of the town that we will be celebrating next year. I recently appointed an anniversary planning committee that held its first organizational meeting on March 24.

This committee will be brainstorming and developing a plan, including a number of subcommit-

tees, to work on the festivities for next year's events. If you are interested in participating in a volunteer capacity contact Lisa Zerio, parks and recreation director.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Rocky Hill Police Department and our K9 officers. A fundraiser was held at West Side Market in conjunction with the Hometown Foundation. Officer Baker and his K9 partner Maverick

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Students from the Rocky Hill Public Schools visited the State Capitol to testify in favor of naming the Dilophosaurus the official state dinosaur. They met Gov. Dannel Molloy while there and had this photo taken with him.

and Sergeant Gutsfeld were on hand at the event. The proceeds raised will help purchase protective vests and training gear for our K9 officers.

Condolences to Sergeant Phelps on the loss of his retired K9 partner and family member Ranger. Ranger served the police department from 2005 until 2013.

Congratulations to the Rocky Hill Fire Department on 90 years of service. I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony with fellow councilmen John Emmanuel and Deputy Mayor Kochanek. U.S. Rep. John Larson and state Sen. Paul Doyle also attended. Beautiful words were delivered by former chief Kochanek. Congratulations as well to our oldest firefighter, Paul Stewart. Thank you all for keeping us safe.

March 11 was the veterans' "Ruck to Remember" honoring our

soldiers and held at the State Veterans Home on West Street.

This was an important recognition of the brave men and women who have given their lives for our freedom and honor to the brave and grieving families.

Hopefully you will have the chance to view the youth art exhibit on display at the Cora J. Belden Library before the end of March. The exhibit opened with a kick-off reception and record-breaking crowds.

It was a proud moment for our elementary and middle school students on March 20 when they testified at the State Capitol before the Government Administration and Elections Committee in support of a bill to designate the Dilophosaurus as the official state dinosaur. Third-graders from West Hill School Jack Sceiza, Hailey Emanuel and Gauri

Murali testified and presented a booklet consisting of a collection of essays.

Fifth-graders from Stevens School Hannah Walsh, Maleena Muzio, Fuses Wong, Roshani Bashyal, Yusuf Heyderi and Destiny Culp also testified. Griswold Middle School eighth-grader Joshua Young presented an introduction to their video presentation, which was also shown.

The Girl Scouts of America celebrated their 105th birthday March 12. I had the pleasure of attending their annual Special Person and Me Dance on St. Patrick's Day. It was a fun evening.

We have a busy month coming in April. The high school's Terrier Tough will once again take place April 1 at the Elm Ridge Park amphitheater. Proceeds will fund the

school's annual Habitat for Humanity student service trip to New Orleans.

The following weekend brings us the 2nd Annual Cora J. Belden Library 5K Library Run/Walk. Proceeds from this fund-raising event will again support literacy activities, including the 2017 summer reading program. Weather permitting, the opening day of Little League will take April 22 at Elm Ridge Park.

The next Coffee with the Mayor will take place in April at the new Starbucks location in Town Center West. Details on the time and date are still being worked out.

Finally, we now embark upon the budget season. This year will present a number of challenges, including a difficult situation at the state and the uncertainty of the impact on funding to municipalities including ours.

There is no question that this will be a difficult budget year.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has worked collaboratively to make some proposals to the state for alternatives that would ease the impact of some of the anticipated proposals from the state budget. We do not know the end result.

I invite you to attend our Town Council meetings and our budget workshops as we try to deal with the many difficult questions relating to putting together a balanced budget that takes into account the many difficult issues and to share your questions and concerns. **RHL**

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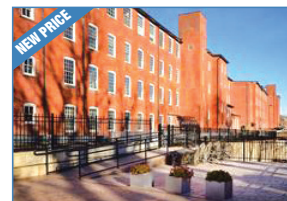


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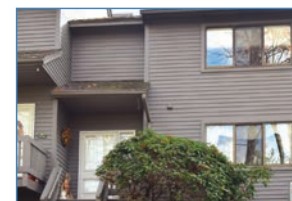
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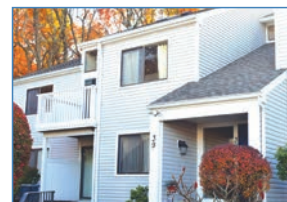
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April calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

1 Playgroup, 10:15 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library, 33 Church St., 860-258-7623 or rockyhilllibrary.info, also April 8, 15, and 22

3 AARP Tax Help, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 10

SCORE Small Business Counseling, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

Be a Library Super User, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

4 Fun for Ones, 10:15 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 11, 18 and 25

Knitting Group, 11 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 11, 18 and 25

Art with Scratch Programming, 4 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

Kat Kennedy in concert, 6:30 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

CT Hearing Voices Network support group, 7 p.m., Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805-817 Old Main St., second floor classroom, 203-391-4968, also April 11, 18 and 25

5 Playgroup Plus, 10:15 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 12, 19 and 26

On Our Own Preschool Storytime, 1 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 12, 19 and 26

-Ology, 4 p.m., for grades 3-6, Cora J. Belden Library, also April 19 and 26

Coloring for Adults, 6 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 12, 19 and 26

5 Mystery Book Discussion, 6:30 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

6 La Leche League, 10 a.m. to noon, 23 Textbook Ave., 860-529-2307 or mgubala@sbcglobal.net

SCORE Small Business workshop, 10 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library

Toddler Time, 10:15 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 13, 20 and 27

ESL Classes, 10:30 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 13, 20 and 27

-Ology, 4 p.m., for grades K-2, Cora J. Belden Library, also April 13 and 20

Minecraft Club, 4 p.m., for grades 2-5, Cora J. Belden Library, also April 13 and 20

Minecraft Club, 5:30 p.m., for grades 6-12, Cora J. Belden Library, also April 13 and 20

Family Make It, Take It, 6 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 13 and 20

7 Art Start, 10:30 a.m., for ages 2 and older, Cora J. Belden Library

8 2nd Annual Rocky Hill Library 5K Race, 9 a.m., Griswold Middle School

Alzheimer's or Dementia Caregivers Support Group, 10 a.m., registration required, The Atrium at Rocky Hill, 1160 Elm St., 860-563-5588 or kpernerewski@

benchmarkquality.com

10 Outside the Box Board Game Expo, 2 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

Crafternoon, 4 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 17 and 24

Library Board of Trustees, 7 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

11 Career One-on-One, 10 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 25

Let's Go Fly a Kite, 2 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

Foundations of Nutrition, 6:30 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

12 Drop Everything and Read, 3 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

Alzheimer's or Dementia Caregivers Support Group, 5 p.m., The Atrium at Rocky Hill, 1160 Elm St., registration required, 860-563-5588 or kpernerewski@benchmarkquality.com

Friends of the Cora J. Belden Library Board, 7 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

13 Family Movie: "Ramona and Beezus," 1 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

17 Family Sensory Story Time, 6:15 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library, also April 24

18 Healthy Me, 4 p.m., for

grades K-2, registration required, Cora J. Belden Library

19 Cora Creates Spring Planters, 2 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

21 Earth Day Celebration, 10 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library

LEGO Free Play, 10:30 a.m., Cora J. Belden Library

25 3rd Annual Connecticut Poetry Society Poetry Reading & Open Mic, 6:30 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

Transition to College: Keys to Success, 6:30 p.m., Rocky Hill High School, 860-258-7701 ext. 174 or strifflers@rockyhillps.com

26 Monthly Makerspace, 5:30 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

29 Friends Book Sale, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

30 Friends Book Sale, noon to 3 p.m., Cora J. Belden Library

Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at mjahne@turleyct.com or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.

Her greatest feat

Kaydee is a certified trick and therapy dog

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Not everyone is used to hearing gasps of joy whenever they walk into a room, but that is just a normal day for Kaydee.

A goldendoodle owned by Rocky Hill resident Kathy Mayer, Kaydee is a certified trick dog and therapy dog whose talents are shared throughout Connecticut. Having a dog capable of jumping through hoops and balancing on command was not Mayer's goal.

"I never, ever, ever planned to have a therapy dog or a trick dog," she said. "I just wanted to have a dog who would come when I called her and not jump on people."

Mayer's journey with Kaydee began roughly eight-and-a-half years ago when she mentioned to some of her fellow congregants at the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield that she wanted a dog.



Photos by Lisa Brisson

Cassidy, a preschool student at the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, gives Kaydee a hug.

Dr. Bill Haines, a veterinarian and fellow church member, told her that he had just delivered a litter of puppies that weren't even a week old.

Mayer contacted the people with the puppies that same day to schedule a visit. Knowing she definitely wanted a female puppy, her options were somewhat limited, but even at that young age Kaydee stood out.

"Even as a pup, she was a wild child," Mayer said, recalling watching Kaydee playing tug of war with her mom and being nearly as strong.

"I thought, uh oh. And I was right. She was a wild one."

She began visiting the puppy every week until she was old enough to be taken to her new home. But life with Kaydee was not as smooth as Mayer had hoped.

"She destroyed two of my down coats and I was wearing them," Mayer said with a laugh. "She had a good heart and was friendly as all get out, but she wanted to play."

Knowing that she needed to make a change,

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Sam, Garrett, Cassidy and Owen, students in the preschool at the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, pose for a photo with Kaydee following her show.

Mayer enrolled Kaydee at the Hartford Obedience Training Club.

"We got her in and we never looked back," Mayer said. "We just kept at it."

At first, she wasn't seeing results, but she decided to continue the work, increasing the training to two times per week.

"I got her into some agility work and then things started to turn around some," she said. "I started getting her involved in tricks and she loved it."

Mayer began reading books by dog trainer, performer and author Kyra Sundance whose Do More with Your Dog program includes a trick dog titling program and trick dog instructor certification.

As they progressed with their training, Mayer became a certified trick dog instructor and Kaydee became the first goldendoodle, a mix of golden retriever and poodle, to be certified through the program in the United States.

Now Kaydee is able to perform a

wide variety of tricks, including getting Mayer a tissue when she pretends to sneeze. What she considers Kaydee's greatest trick, however, is the work she is able to do as a certified therapy dog.

"This is my ministry," Mayer said with a small smile, her hand patting Kaydee's head in her lap. "In my heart, we're doing something to make people feel happier, even if just for the moment."

As an academic advisor for the Criminology Department at Central Connecticut State University and with a background working in drug and alcohol programs in the prison system, Mayer said being able to give back to the community in a positive manner is important. She has established relationships with several area schools as well as the State Veterans' Home on West Street.

"Sometimes it's the smallest things," Mayer said. "At the veterans' home there was a guy just walking by, and he stopped to pet her and said, 'well that made my day,' and then carried on."

Kaydee is certified through Therapy Dogs International, an organization that requires extensive testing and training because these dogs are often interacting with children and the elderly. In addition to regular visits with veterans, Mayer has

also created a relationship with several schools, especially working with students with special needs.

"At the schools, we visit each classroom to see the kids, then they identify some people for us to do one-on-ones with," she said.

Having a therapy dog can be beneficial for social and emotional growth, teaching students respect and patience or working to reduce anxiety in others.

"She can bring them out of their shell sometimes," Mayer said. "This is something that's happening with therapy dogs all over the world."

Looking back on how Kaydee began as a puppy to her behavior now, Mayer is grateful to the Hartford Obedience Training Club for starting them on this journey.

"The obedience training really was the foundation for her tricks," Mayer said. "Our success with her has a lot to do with what I learned at that club."

She is glad that she was the one who discovered Kaydee as a puppy, not in spite of her rough beginning, but because of it.

"Even the vet said that if it had been another situation, other people might have had to give her away," Mayer said. "She's been a handful, but she's just a joy." **RHL**



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April 9 – 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship

April 13 – 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday. A service of “Light into Darkness”

April 16 – Sunrise Easter Service at Rose Hill Cemetery

Breakfast to follow at the church

10:00 a.m. Easter Service at the church

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The Rocky Hill Catholic Community invites you to celebrate Easter with Us

Saint Elizabeth Seton Church

280 Brook St, Rocky Hill
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HOLY THURSDAY, April 13th
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14th
Celebration of the Lord's Passion,
3:00p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY, April 15th
Easter Vigil, 8:00p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 16
Masses at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

*All are welcome to join us for
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**EASTER
HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE**



2017

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HOLY THURSDAY, April 13th
(No Morning Mass)
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00p.m.
Visit to the Repository (Parish Center) until 10:15p.m.
Night Prayer at 10:15p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14th
Morning Prayer, 8:00a.m.
Solemn Good Friday Liturgy, 3:00p.m.
Way of the Cross, 7:00p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY, April 15th
Blessing of Easter Food, 12:00 NOON
Solemn Easter Vigil, 8:00p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES, April 16th
7:30a.m., 9:30a.m., and 11:30a.m.

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Lenten Calendar

Palm Sunday

April 9th

Procession of Palms 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday

April 13th

Service at 7:30 pm

Good Friday

April 14th

Family Worship 2:00 pm

Evening Worship 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday

April 16th

Sunrise Service 6:00 am
at Indian Hill Country Club
Worship in the Sanctuary
9 am and 11 am

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ASYLUM HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 9 | 9:00 & 10:30am

Journey to Jerusalem and the cross in a powerful and dramatic worship experience, as we recall the triumphal entry of Jesus and witness the journey of Christ's Passion and the foreshadowing of the cross to come.

Maundy Thursday, April 13 | 6:00pm

A meditative and reflective worship experience recalling the Last Supper and the final hours Jesus spent with his disciples.

Good Friday, April 14 | 7:00pm

Worship service featuring *Jesu, meine Freude* by J.S. Bach. AHCC's choir and soloists help us begin our journey from Cross to Tomb to Resurrection.

Easter Sunday, April 16 | 9:00 & 10:30am

A celebratory worship service, where death is cast aside and the light of the resurrection shines forth in hymns of praise, words of hope and inspiring music.

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Lookin' good for prom

It's that time of year to think about the big dance and find just the perfect look.

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Sparkle is just one example. The shop also carries accessories including shoes, purses and jewelry.

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News roundup

Clothing drive benefits RHS party

Rocky Hill Project Graduation is sponsoring a clothing drive fundraiser to support the all-night graduation party for the Class of 2017. Every pound of donated clothing, accessories, household items and toys will bring in funds to benefit the cause.

Items may be dropped off between 8 a.m. and noon April 22 at the school's loading dock. Organizers request that they be placed inside 13-gallon or smaller plastic bags. Pick up can be arranged by calling 860-712-4018.

All donated items will be packaged into containers for shipping to countries all over the world. Nothing will be shredded or otherwise destroyed.

Join the hospice team

Masonicare is seeking to recruit volunteers to join its hospice team in Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. Their role would be to visit with patients and their families during the day or on weekends. Flexible schedules are offered.

Full training on hospice end-of-life care and ongoing training will be provided. Military veterans are encouraged to join the We Honor Veterans program. Anyone who is interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, or learning more, may call 860-528-5195 or email czukowski@masonicare.org. **RHL**

People notes

Megan Rowe and **Shane Steinman** were named to the dean's list at Marist College.

Wyatt Gantenbein was named to the dean's list at the University of New Hampshire.

Alyssa Bogus was named to the dean's list at Curry College.

Taylor Remme was named to the dean's list at the University of Delaware.

Jessica Markowski, Sarah Slowik and **Adam Famiglietti** were named to the dean's list at Roger Williams University.

Humairaa Bhura, Richard Cassarino, Mary Harrison, Thomas Koyles, Michael LaPorte, Kristen Lauria, Geetanjali Neemcharan, Erika Peterson, Taylor Rocco, Daniel Shumaker, Madison Stabile and **Adam Vassallo** were named to the dean's list at the University of Hartford.

Brooklyn Bradley, Madison Bradley, Eugenia Cho, Gabrielle Grant, Jessica Grodovich, Yining "Ivy" Liang and **Lan Lou** earned high honors for the second marking period at Mercy High

School. **Sixian "Spring" Li, Luoqi "Miranda" Liu** and **Laura Outeiro** earned first honors.

Michelle Ciaschini and **Erica Talareva** were named to the president's list at Goodwin College.

Kristina Machaj and **David Scalise**, students at Rocky Hill High School, were named CIAC scholar-athletes by the Connecticut Association of Schools.

Lynn Aureli was named to the dean's list at Quinnipiac University.

Jacquelin Saucier was named to the dean's list at the College of Saint Rose.

Dale Reese was named to the dean's list with high distinction at Grove City College.

Hannah Garrahy was among 13 Eastern Connecticut State University students who attended the Region I Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival held at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury.

Laura Dobmeier was named to the dean's list at Temple University. **RHL**

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Slice of LIFE

photos by Lisa Brisson



Children get cooking at the Cora J. Belden Library

1. Library technical assistant Robin Stunpf demonstrates how the children participating in the Kids Get Cooking program will be grating cheese as part of their taco cup preparation. The cooking series for children in grades K-2 started this past summer and is offered monthly at the Cora J. Belden Library. **2.** Ishira Anne, 7, has a blast shredding cheese for the taco cups. The various ingredients in a traditional taco – cheese, lettuce, meat and tomatoes – were prepared by the children as part of the fun-filled cooking lesson. **3.** Cousins Mia Ferreira, 6, and Ariana LaPlant, 7, prepare the lettuce. **4.** Alec Marshall, 5, shows off the crushed taco chip level of the taco cup that he made. **5.** After all that preparation, it's time to assemble the taco cups and eat. **6.** Seven-year-old Ben Meisterling is proud of the quantity of cheese he grated for everyone's taco cups. **7.** Amanda Otto, 8, and Liliana Leavitt, 6, are just two of the children who enjoyed the cheese grating station the best. **8.** Rohit Tirunagari, 6, gives a thumbs-up approval after trying avocado on the Try It station. Taco sides such as black beans, guacamole and lime were available for any of the children to sample before they committed to putting them in their completed taco cups. **9.** Sisters Caroline and Adelie Meisterling, 12 and 10, came by to pick up their brother and had a chance to sample the taco cups while they were there. **10.** The Try It station was a popular area for the children to sample items before they layered them in their taco cups. **11.** Library Assistant Jen Zappulla helps Rohit Tirunagari, 6, with putting on his food prep gloves.



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Jasper

Jasper

Jasper is a black male domestic shorthair mix with a gentle disposition and friendly nature. Just 2 years old, he is neutered and best suited for a home where the children are age 8 or older and respectful of animals. He's OK sharing his new home with other cats, but has no experience living with a dog. Any kind of home is welcome, whether it's a single-family, multi-family or condominium residence.



Ivy

Ivy

Ivy is a senior citizen in dog terms. She is a friendly 11-year-old Terrier/Staffordshire Bull mix. She's spayed and housebroken and would do well in either a single-family home or condo. Children of any age are fine and so are cats, but other dogs could create a problem for this gentle old gal. She likes to relax and hopes to find a family with prior general dog experience.

Inquiries about adoption may be made at the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington. Call 860-594-4500. More information, including videos, can be found online at cthumane.org. Click on "Adopt" and "Newington." The Connecticut Humane Society is a private organization and has no time limits for adoption.



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Living

Spring Home & Garden

spaces

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Living Spaces

Seeing green: How to help your lawn bounce back from winter

Lawns are exposed to the elements throughout the year, and each season brings its own unique set of challenges. Summer heat waves can make it hard for lawns to maintain their lush green appeal, while the falling leaves of autumn can threaten root systems if not handled properly. Winter frost and snow also can pose a threat to lawns, leaving homeowners with some work to do when spring arrives.

Spring is a season of revival, and that spirit of rejuvenation extends to lawns. When the last vestiges of winter begin to disappear, homeowners can dust off their gardening gloves and start taking steps to revitalize their lawns for the months ahead.

- Look for signs of damage. Winter can be hard on lawns, so it's important for homeowners to look for signs of damage before they begin planning any springtime landscaping projects. Salt damage can occur in areas that received heavy snowfall over the winter. Many communities use rock salt to de-ice snow- and ice-covered roads, and that rock salt is largely

made up of sodium chloride, which can draw moisture from grass and cause it to brown. Salt trucks used during winter storms often spit salt out onto lawns, so don't be surprised if you notice brown spots on your grass, especially in those areas closest to the road. Winter lawn damage may also be caused by voles, burrowing mouse-like rodents that make paths beneath the snow to hide from predators and feed on grass blades and roots. Lawns with distinctly matted areas may also have been damaged by snow mold that can weaken turf.

- Consult a professional landscaper. Homeowners with considerable experience tending to damaged lawns can no doubt identify and address problems on their own. That's because many problems are a result of the weather, which tends to be similar and produce similar problems from one year to the next. But inexperienced homeowners should consult professional landscapers before attempting to address problems on their own. Winter lawn damage may be caused by a variety of factors that can produce similar symp-

toms, and professional landscapers can identify the culprits behind such damage and provide the most effective solutions to restore the lawn.

- Remove debris. A light raking can help remove any debris that accumulated over the winter. Such debris, which may include fallen branches and fallen leaves left behind from the final days of fall, can prevent lawns from getting the sun and water they need to thrive. Remove this debris, but make sure the grass is not frozen when you do, as walking on frozen grass can cause further damage.

- Let the grass grow. Mowing the lawn is a chore that's reserved for spring, summer and maybe early fall, but it's important that homeowners don't jump the gun and mow too early after winter.

A patient approach allows the grass to reestablish itself, so let it grow a little higher than you normally would before the first cut. When the grass is roughly 4.5 inches high, you can cut it down to three inches and then maintain your normal mowing routine throughout the rest of spring and summer. **RHL**

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Living Spaces



Effortlessly chic

The absence of color is all the rage in home decorating

White is a versatile color in home decorating and renovation. White helps any space look effortlessly chic, blends well with just about any color and can be incorporated into various design styles — from modern to traditional.

While the color white is always trendy, the paint manufacturers Benjamin Moore chose white (Simply White OC-117) as its “it” color for 2016. White can be used nearly anywhere inside and outside the home. Improving interior and exterior spaces with white elements is easier than you might think, and it instantly can make anything look as good as new.

Kitchen

While rich cherrywood cabinets and deeply hued granite countertops have long been popular in kitchens,

creamy white cabinets paired with blonde wood countertops can work together to make kitchens seem open and airy. If all white is not your thing, brighten up kitchen spaces with white canisters, cookie jars and a fresh bouquet of white flowers to add instant appeal.

Living Room

Use white as a base color for living room spaces so you can build on it with other hues on pillows and draperies, mixing and matching however you see fit.

Homeowners who have children and/or pets should look for furniture with removable slipcovers. This way they're easily removed and laundered.

Bathroom

White bathrooms look fresh and are easy to clean and maintain. White

tiles provide a classic look. Include colored bath mats, towels and shower curtains to break up the white as you see fit. A neutral white base makes it easy to switch out color schemes whenever you feel like it.

Bedroom

Feminine and fresh, white bedrooms may not be the first choice for novice designers. If the prospect of white on white seems too sterile, offset deeper hues on bed linens and walls with white furniture. This provides some pop against the darker contrast. Keep in mind that doing a bed up in all white means it will always be easy to find matching sheets and pillowcases, making it possible to ensure everything looks cohesive and crisp.

Outdoors

Use white paint on trims, shutters,

mailboxes and more to provide that pop of contrast against the rest of the home.

White complements just about every color, making it a versatile choice on a home's accents regardless of the main exterior color of that home.

White and other light shades will reflect the sun as well, contributing to cooler temperatures on walkways, decks and other structures, which can be advantageous to homeowners who live in warm climates.

Is it any wonder that white continues to be a classic and popular color to use around the home?

Whether you do so with monochromatic rooms or accent pieces, you can incorporate white into design plans throughout your home. **RHL**

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Living Spaces

Picking favorites

Gardeners share special tools

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Anyone who likes to garden knows that you need some basic tools just to get started.

However, Sarah Bailey of UConn Extension in West Hartford said you don't need a shed full of implements to be successful.

"I can do a substantial amount of my routine gardening tasks with two tools: a trowel and my pruners. I have a variety of trowels in convenient locations, but one pair of pruners travels with me everywhere. I have holes in the back pocket of most of my pants and shorts where the pruners have worn



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Living Spaces



Brenda Sullivan of Thompson Street Farm in Glastonbury is attached to this masonry trowel, which has been passed down through the generations. Right: Cheryl DePrest, founder of the Olga Bobbi line of skincare, jokes that her husband, Channel 3 Chief Meteorologist Bruce DePrest (pictured), is her favorite to work with in the garden. The two have an extensive organic garden.



through," she said.

Bailey, who serves as state extension master gardener coordinator, Hartford County Master gardener coordinator and youth gardening coordinator, finds many

uses for the pruners.

"I use them for cutting twine, trimming small branches and non-woody plant material, snipping off diseased or pest-infested plant tips, and plenty of mundane tasks such as

opening plastic packaging of plant ties or hose parts. They are a critical element of hose repair, which seems to be an ongoing process," she said.

"There are plenty of very good pruners available, but my longtime

partner is a pair of Felco #7 pruners. Along with a well-balanced design that puts your wrist at a comfortable angle, they have a rotating bottom handle that allows you to easily change your grip. When you are

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Sarah Bailey of UConn Extension in West Hartford, said you don't need a shed full of implements to be successful. "I can do a substantial amount of my routine gardening tasks with two tools: a trowel and my pruners. I have a variety of trowels in convenient locations, but one pair of pruners travels with me everywhere.

doing a lot of pruning at one time, this makes all the difference in how your hand feels at the end of the day. The other great feature is the replaceable blades, especially given the amount of abuse I subject them to. The #7 is a large pair of pruners. I've heard folks with smaller hands complain that they are uncomfortable, but that is the only negative comment I've heard. They are not cheap, but they last forever. I have had my pair for over 20 years and they're still going strong."

The feel of a tool is important even for someone who grows plants professionally, such as Brenda Sullivan of Thompson Street Farm in Glastonbury.

"Hand garden tools can take on a personal attachment for gardeners with their size, weight and handle type being key individual factors. Even a veteran gardener like myself can become frustrated with an excessively heavy, bulky or otherwise inefficient tool," she noted. "Sometimes a gardener must think outside the box and adapt a tool

from someplace else as I did with my most prized garden tool: an old masonry trowel.

"This beautiful tool from the early part of the 20th century was left to me by Uncle Larry who inherited it from his father after he died in the 1930s. To my surprise, the worn handle from decades of use is the perfect size for my hand, and the trowel is well-balanced and not too heavy even after hours of use. This is important because during the growing season, I prepare 50-plus micro-

green trays a week so the use of a heavy hand tool fatigues my hand and wrist," she continued. "I also love this trowel for its tapered end that fits perfectly in the corners of the tray allowing for even soil distribution as well as for its efficiency as a transplanting tool in the garden."

Cheryl DePrest of Wethersfield, founder of Olga Bobbi skincare products, also has a favorite in her garden. In her case, however, her favorite is a "who" and not a "what": her husband Bruce DePrest, chief meteorologist at Channel 3.

"Bruce and I love to garden and this is a project that we enjoy together. We have a perennial garden and an organic herb/vegetable garden every year. Our herb garden is always the same. Parsley, basil, sage, thyme, oregano, tarragon, lemon verbena and rosemary are a must," Cheryl DePrest said. "This year our vegetable garden will consist of many varieties of green beans; a variety of peppers, including habanero, Bruce's favorite; cucumbers; and several kinds of cherry tomatoes – we like them sweet."

They grow everything organically, and Cheryl uses the lemon verbena, rosemary and cucumbers in soaps for her Olga Bobbi line.

"Bruce loves making his yummy marinara sauce with fresh basil and oregano," Cheryl shared. "Last year we had so much basil that I was able to make 10 batches of pesto, some of which we froze for the winter. This is a family favorite." **RHL**

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Living Spaces

How to transform a fixer-upper

Investing in a fixer-upper requires a leap of faith and a vision of what the home can look like in the future. Turning a real estate lemon into lemonade requires certain skills and a good measure of patience.

The real estate market will always have its ups and downs, but real estate is an oft-profitable investment. Real estate investors do their investing for various reasons.

Some see a house as a place to hang their hats for years and years, while others look at properties as nothing more than investments.

Buying a home with the intent to fix it up and resell it is called a “fix and flip.”

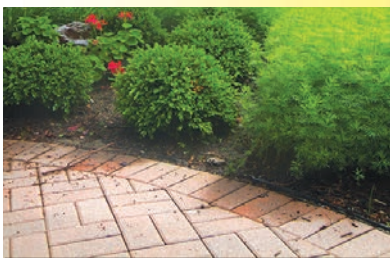
In such situations, investors buy

homes at below-market prices before refurbishing the homes with the goal of recouping their initial investment and then some when the homes are ultimately put back on the market.

Flipping has become popular for both expert remodelers and novice investors. RealtyTrac, the nation's leading source for comprehensive housing data, noted in its “Year-End and Q4 2015 U.S. Home Flipping” report that 5.5 percent of all single-family home and condo sales during the year were flipped properties. This

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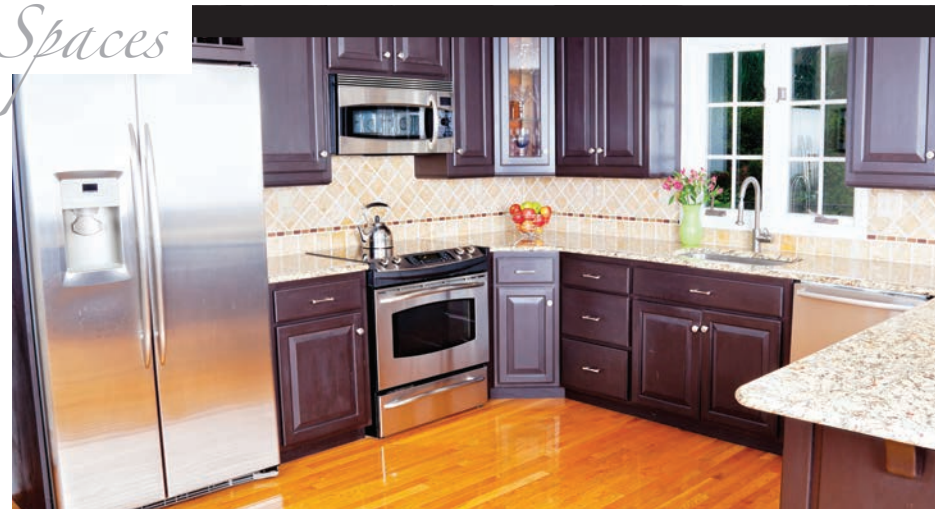
Renovate with an eye toward prospective buyers' needs. Keep things neutral and accommodating. Research the latest trends to understand what buyers might be seeking in a home.

marked an increase from the same time the previous year. Investing in a fixer-upper requires a leap of faith and a vision of what the home can look like in the future. Turning a real estate lemon into lemonade requires certain skills and a good measure of patience. The following are some guidelines to get anyone started.

- **Don't bite off more than you can chew.** Make an honest assessment of your abilities and which renovations, if any, you can handle. If you are unskilled or inexperienced working with your hands, then it can be easy for an investment property to quickly become a money pit. Before purchasing a property, hire a trained home

inspector to tour the home with you and point out all of the areas that will need renovation. With this list, begin getting estimates on how much money the work will entail. Determine if this fits with your budget or not. You do not want to invest so much that it exceeds what you could feasibly recoup when it comes time to sell.

- **Overlook cosmetic things when visiting properties.** Cosmetic issues include all of the easily replaceable items in a home, such as carpeting, appliances, interior paint colors and cabinetry. Focus on the bones of the house — the architectural integrity and those little touches that you



in some instances, a coat of paint and some new accents may be all you need to transform a space. For example, if kitchen cabinets are in good condition, see if they can be refaced or painted instead of replaced entirely.

envision having a "wow" factor.

- **Seek the help of experts.** Some flippers think they'll save the most money by doing all of the work themselves. This isn't always the case. Professional architects, designers and contractors may help you save money. Contractors have an intimate knowledge of where to buy materials and may be able to negotiate prices based on wholesale or trade costs. In addition, experts can help you avoid common pitfalls because they've already done this type of work time and again.

- **Recognize that not everything must be completely redone.** Realize that, in some instances, a coat of paint

and some new accents may be all you need to transform a space. For example, if kitchen cabinets are in good condition, see if they can be refaced or painted instead of replaced entirely. Install new door pulls/handles to add visual interest. Look for some ready-made items, such as bookshelves, instead of installing custom carpentry.

- **Think about what the buyer wants and not what you want.** Renovate with an eye toward prospective buyers' needs. Keep things neutral and accommodating. Research the latest trends to understand what buyers might be seeking in a home.

You want potential buyers to envision themselves moving right in. **RHL**



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Editorial

Another unpleasant budget season arrives

Some year, towns will be able to enjoy a budget cycle when money is sufficient, new initiatives can be launched and the mill rate can be reduced to make the lives of taxpayers less stressful. But not this year.

Just when it looked like Connecticut might be coming out of a decade-long recession, the bottom fell out of the state budget. Legislators are struggling to find ways to stop the red ink from washing over the budget like a tsunami, already more than \$1 billion in deficit.

One of the problems with this scenario is that it trickles down in a mighty way to cities and towns. Municipalities depend upon state financial assistance to balance their own budgets and keep local taxes under control. Many get 15 percent of more of their total annual budget from the state.

That number is likely to be much less this year. The legislature needs to trim everywhere it can and it also has to deal with making sure that Hartford, which is in dire financial straits, does not go belly up. This does not bode well for most towns.

As any homeowner knows, it costs more each year just to live the same life and pay for the same goods and services. Prices for everything from food to electricity to gasoline to countless other needs rise on an annual basis.

The same is true for municipalities. Maintaining the status quo still costs more money than it did the previous year and usually

results in a tax increase of 1 or 2 percent. Much of that is driven by labor costs, but people are an integral part of government and public education.

The real problem is the heavy dependence on the property tax to fund local government. Most other states don't allow this one tax to bear so much of the fiscal burden.

When he conducted his traveling road show seeking input and support from the suburbs, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin suggested that state government take a small percentage of its sales tax revenue and designate that for municipal aid. That's a good idea.

Of course, this makes the task of balancing the state budget more difficult. So the likelihood of his suggestion being adopted is weak.

Bronin and many other mayors and first selectmen have also called for maintaining, or even increasing, state aid, especially the PILOT program that provides partial payment for otherwise tax-exempt state buildings, hospitals, colleges and more.

That's another reasonable solution but it's also not likely to happen because of the state's money problems.

Add to all this the fact that almost every city and town in Connecticut has a charter that requires it to adopt a budget weeks, if not months, before the state does the same.

So, when it comes to how much state aid they want to factor into their plans, all they can do is guess. **RHL**



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KEITH TURLEY, Publisher

EDITORIAL

Abigail Albair, Executive Editor
aalbair@turleyct.com

Mark Jahne, Editor

John Fitts, Assistant Editor

Alicia B. Smith, Associate Editor

STAFF WRITERS

Allie Rivera, **Mara Dresner**,
David Heuschkel, **Sloan Brewster**

ADVERTISING SALES

Alana DiMarco
alana@turleyct.com,
860-264-5723

PAGE DESIGNERS

Daniel Kornegay, **Cynthia Martel**,
Robert Sirois

GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT

Barbara Ouellette, Production Manager
ads@turleyct.com, 860-264-5523

Maureen LaBier, Production Assistant

Daniel Kornegay, **Corley Fleming**, **Cynthia Martel**,
Kathy Kokoszka, **Mary Grimes**

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BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



A Warm, Snowy winter...

Meteorological Winter is defined as the months of December, January and February. For the Greater Hartford Area, records have been kept since 1905 and are currently maintained at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks. So how did this winter compare to others?

The average temperature for the season was 33.0° ... that's 3.9° above normal and makes this past winter, 2016-17, the 10th warmest! This is just one year after the 2nd warmest winter (in 2015-16, the average temperature was 35.1°—just 0.1° away from the record warmest, the winter of 2001-02). Last winter, records were also set for the number of 50° and 60° days.

At Bridgeport (another official recording station in Connecticut), January went down as the warmest on record at 6.8° above normal. It was then followed by one of the warmest Februarys, the 28 days averaged 6.0° above normal.

During the course of the season, Windsor Locks had 8.71" of precipitation (rain, plus the water equivalent of snow, sleet and ice),

this was 0.85" below average. Total snowfall was 41.2", an impressive 10.5" above average (a daily snowfall record was set on February 9th, with Blizzard Chris – 15.5" was received, breaking the prior record of 13.0" from 1969).

When making comparisons to 'normal' ... a 30-year span of time from 1981 to 2010 is used. **RHL**



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